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Agenda item 159

Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anna **Sotaniemi** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly" was included in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly at the request of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

2. At its 18th plenary meeting, on 4 October 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 5 and 7 October 2004. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.6/59/SR.2 and 3).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 15 September 2004 from the representatives of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/59/232).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/59/L.6

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 5 October, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and

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the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution entitled "Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly" (A/C.6/59/L.6).

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/59/L.6 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

7. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States,

1. *Decides* to invite the Economic Community of West African States to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.